



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Finance Committee Minutes 03-21-2001

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING, March 21, 2001

7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING

ATTENDEES:

Phelps*	Feinleib	Kocur*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Villandry*	Simmons*	Mazmanian*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Scoppettuolo	Franclemont*		Olsen	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Planning Director Alan McClennen, Elsie Fiori, Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan, School Committee Members Bill Carey (chair), Marty Thrope, Joan LaMachia, David McKenna; School Department staff Judi Bohn, Michael McCabe, Bob Penta, Stephen Carne, Alan Brown, Gerald Carmody, Marilyn Carmody, Bob Lynch, Marilyn Bisbiscos

MINUTES of 3/12/01 and 3/19 accepted as printed.

ARTICLE 80 LAND ACQUISITION/MUGAR SITE: Fiori stated that she felt the negotiations to acquire this site are moving too slowly. She says she gets questions from her concerned constituents. McClennen stated that a Town Meeting vote either for or against a purchase proposal would ruin the negotiations that have begun.

VOTED to reaffirm the Town's desire to avoid building on this site using the same wording as in last year's vote. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 79 LAND ACQUISITION/ 821 MASS AVE: McClennen said the owner, Buick dealership, wants to give house to town and will contribute \$10k for moving. Will cost \$40 to 50k which could come from CDBG. Might fit at 10 Water St. and be included as part of that development. The house could provide 2 affordable housing units. Hope to have a plan by TM. Gift contingent on rezoning the parcel from B2 to B4 (ARTICLE 17) which would allow use for auto sales or maintenance. Note that affordable housing can be forced to remain that way through joint ownership of occupant with a land trust established to protect the property's status. Villandry to get wording for vote.

REED'S BROOK McClennen said that the Affordable Housing Task Force has requested 36 Wright St which the existing plan assumes would be moved & sold for \$200k. This change is likely and will modify the funding plan. McClennen expects to go out to bid this Spring for the drainage work so that construction would start in late Summer

SCHOOL BUDGET: Donovan presented the budget using a handout and computer screen projector. The School Committee recommends an increase of \$2.185 million or 7.46%. About half of this is for salaries and steps. The salary increase was 4%. Arlington's per pupil cost is \$6k or 5th out of the 12 comparable communities. The salary level is below the median. Last year grants totaled \$2.3 million or 8% of the general fund appropriation. The FinCom asked many questions, which Donovan tried to answer. FinCom budget summary currently shows 5.6% increase for schools.

ARTICLE 84 APPROPRIATION/SCHOOL COMMITTEE SALARY: Carey stated that the School Committee is gathering information & will vote Tues. Salaries in other communities range up to \$2,500.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Meetings are scheduled for March 24 (Saturday, 9 a.m., budgets), 26 (budgets), 28 (O'Connor ARTICLE 29); and April 9, 12, 14 -- all in the Bob O'Neill Room at the Community Safety Bldg., except 9 a.m. Saturday 4/14 in Town Hall Hearing Room.

Plan is to mail Report for April Special TM next week.

Peter B. Howard, Secretary